

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-19 that were pending in the application, claims 1, 5-9, and 13-19 were rejected in the Office Action.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the continued indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4 and 10-12. In response to this positive indication of allowable subject matter, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite the allowable limitations of claims 2 and 10, respectively. Correspondingly, claim 2 has been canceled and claims 3 and 4, which previously depended from claim 2, have been amended to depend from claim 1. Similarly, claim 10 has been canceled and claims 11 and 12, which previously depended from claim 10, have been amended to depend from claim 9.

In addition to the foregoing, it is respectfully noted that claim 17, like allowable claims 2 and 10, recited a roller that contained a fluid the viscosity of which changes responsive to a magnetic field. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 17 is understood to have been erroneous. Accordingly, independent claim 16 has been amended to recite the allowable limitations of claim 17. Correspondingly, claim 17 has been canceled and claim 18, which previously depended from claim 17, has been amended to depend from claim 16.

1. Rejections of Claims 1, 5-9, and 13-19

The Examiner rejected: (a) claims 1, 5-9, and 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious when considering JP-5-116869/US-5,289,902 ("Fujita") in view of JP41-11778 ("Takahashi"). As previously discussed, independent claims 1, 9, and 16 have respectively been amended to recite the allowable limitations of claims 2, 10, and 17 and, therefore, this rejection is now moot.

2. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, claims 1, 3-9, 11-16, 18, and 19 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will be useful to move this case forward toward issue, Applicant's representative will be happy to discuss any issues regarding this application and can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any necessary fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /John M. Siragusa/
John M. Siragusa
Registration No. 46,174
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS
400 W. Maple Rd., Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: December 17, 2008